

ACTIVITIES OF AMERICAN FOUNDATIONS

Medicine and public health outrank education among the objects toward which American foundations now grant an annual total of \$38,500,000, according to a survey of foundation-giving just completed by Raymond Rich Associates, consultants to foundations, learned societies and other non-profit institutions. The survey, embracing reports from the 243 leading foundations, is an extensive revision of an investigation formerly published periodically by the Twentieth Century Fund.

In suggesting that the Rich Associates undertake this task, the Twentieth Century Fund placed at their disposal all records and materials used in previous reports, and assisted in preparation of the current issue, which considerably enlarges the scope of previous studies. The Associates, however, bear all responsibility for the new report.

The survey indicates that for medical research, medical education, the erection and support of hospitals, and other purposes related to medicine and public health, foundations granted individuals and institutions more than one-third of their total disbursements, or \$13,495,898 during 1937 (the latest year for which complete figures are available).

Education, for many years the foremost concern of foundations, dropped to second place and received but one-fourth, or \$9,170,318, of the total gifts. The other leading fields in which foundations subsidize projects are, in the order of their importance from the standpoint of grants: social welfare, \$4,695,880; physical and biological sciences, \$2,253,298; government and public administration, \$1,710,598; economics, \$1,353,386.

In bringing together these and other figures covering foundation activities and structures, the Rich organization restricted its report to foundations that paid out at least \$1,500 during 1937 for projects not directly controlled by foundation staff members. The Twentieth Century Fund's former surveys provide comparable figures for 1934 and 1931.

Several large foundations gave the bulk of foundation subsidies for medical and public health projects. The General Education Board, a Rockefeller fund, allotted \$5,120,446 to this field in 1937, The Rockefeller Foundation \$4,222,472, and The Commonwealth Fund \$1,367,644. During the past five years, the report states, The Commonwealth Fund—a Harkness benefaction—has devoted an increasingly larger share of its annual payments of \$1,750,000 to \$2,000,000, to medical research.

Gifts of the Carnegie Corporation of New York for medicine and public health amounted to \$525,250 in 1937. The John and Mary R. Markle Foundation since 1935 has limited its new activities to research in the medical sciences and spent \$224,550 on such projects in 1937. Public health and medicine are also the chief interests of the Milbank Memorial Fund and the Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation, to the extent of \$165,328 and \$183,314 a year, respectively.

An intensified interest in medicine and public health is further evidenced by the establishment of new foundations created specifically to lend assistance in this field. The Rich report lists the following large medical foundations set up in the last five years: The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research, which subsidizes cancer investigations, established in 1937; Dazian Foundation for Medical Research, 1938; The Samuel S. Fels Fund, 1936, interested primarily in discovering ways to maintain health; Finney-Howell Research Foundation, Inc., 1937, established to promote the study of cancer; The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, 1938; The Nemours Foundation, 1936, whose current project is the erection of a hospital for crippled children in Delaware; and Zachary Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc., 1936, which is financing a campaign to control venereal diseases in North Carolina. In addition, the control and elimination of disease is one of the purposes for which the Rosenberg Foundation was set up in 1937 in

California, and it gave a large share of its \$56,500 disbursements during its first year of operation for medical research.

Projects in the educational field received about one-fourth—\$9,170,318—of the grants paid in 1937, while social welfare accounted for approximately one-eighth—\$4,695,880—of the total. In the education field, the General Education Board once again led with grants of \$3,794,192 in 1937, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York contributed \$1,850,285. The third largest source for foundation funds in support of educational projects was the Horace H. Rackham and Mary A. Rackham Fund, which granted \$1,101,000 in 1937.

The three largest donors to social welfare projects in the year under survey were: The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, \$1,922,835; the Rackham Fund, \$496,850; and the New York Foundation, \$407,841. Grants in the field of social welfare, including direct relief to individuals, have been decreasing since 1931.

The physical and biological sciences received the fourth largest share of the grants, a total of \$2,253,298. The leading donors of these funds were: The Rockefeller Foundation, with gifts of \$1,094,052 in 1937; General Education Board, \$791,638; and the Carnegie Institution of Washington, \$76,564.

Grants for projects in the field of government and public administration totaled \$1,710,598 in 1937 and were given chiefly by two Rockefeller foundations. The Spelman Fund of New York contributed \$1,076,420, and The Rockefeller Foundation distributed \$588,450.

An increasing proportion of foundation income is being allotted to individuals and organizations working on economic problems. Such grants, however, still rank sixth in the list of totals, aggregating \$1,353,386. The Rockefeller Foundation gave \$1,136,475 of this, chiefly for research in social security problems. Two other large foundations are now concentrating their funds upon economic projects; these are The Maurice and Laura Falk Foundation of Pittsburgh, formed in 1929, and Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Inc., of New York, organized in 1936.

The social sciences other than economics did not share the increased interest in economic problems, the Rich organization discovered. Sixty foundations, whose grants for 1937, 1934, and 1931 may be compared, expended \$882,920 on social science in 1937, 71 per cent less than 1934 and 84 per cent under 1931.

Thirty-nine of the 243 foundations each made total grants of \$100,000 and more in 1937. Of these, the General Education Board led the list with disbursements of \$9,716,277, a figure due in part to the policy of liquidation adopted by the organization's directors. The Rockefeller Foundation ranked second with \$8,996,016, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York third with \$3,695,534.

Thirty-one of the foundations making the largest grants had also reported their grants in 1934 and 1931. Of these, twenty-two made more sizeable disbursements in 1937 than in 1934. The Wieboldt Foundation increased its payments by 265 per cent, rising from \$30,300 to \$110,650. Grants of the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation increased 225 per cent, from \$32,557 to \$105,901. The Horace H. Rackham and Mary A. Rackham Fund, established in 1934, made disbursements of \$2,164,950 in 1937, four times as much as its payments of \$527,110 in 1934.

Other large increases in total gifts were those of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, whose 1937 grants of \$572,685 were 127 per cent greater than its 1934 total, and the Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation whose increase was 95 per cent to \$211,239 in 1937. The grants paid by the General Education Board, the Chicago Community Trust, and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, all were more than 74 per cent greater in 1937 than in 1934.